THE EARLY HISTORY OF HORTICULTURE IN MICHIGAN.

BY J. C. HOLMES, OF DETROIT, — READ AT BATTLE CREEK, FEBRUARY, 1873.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN:—The many very large, rough, hardy pear trees, the many ancient apple orchards and old Morello cherry trees that we find scattered along on the old farms on each side of the Detroit river, testify to us that the early settlers in that vicinity were not unmindful of the value to themselves and their posterity of plantations of fruit trees.

THE PEAR TREES.

The heavy clay soil along the banks of the Detroit river seems admirably adapted to the growth, health, and longevity of pear trees, if we may judge from the present condition of many of these old trees that rise to a hight of sixty or seventy feet, and bear large annual crops of very good pears; their origin running back beyond the knowledge of the oldest Frenchman of our time.

Tradition says: Some of the early French missionaries brought pear trees, scions, and trees from Normandy, and planted a few seeds and trees near each little habitation, along upon each side of the river from Monroe to Mt. Clemens. I have seen it stated that several pear trees were brought from France in the year 1749, and planted along the river side from the Brush to the Witherell farm in Detroit, a distance of nearly one mile. How correct this statement may be I do not know, but it seems to be a well ascertained fact that in no other locality in this country can such trees be found as the ancient pear trees that are now standing on the banks of the Detroit river. It is not unusual for them to bear a crop of thirty to forty bushels each.

A short time since, Mr. Wm. L. Woodbridge told me he had many times taken a crop of fifty bushels from one of the old pear trees that stood on his father's farm.

These old trees seem to be as hardy as the oaks of the forest; no disease has ever attacked them, and they flourish under neglect about as well as the Canada thistle. Very few of them receive much care, yet they bear their full annual crop as regularly as a well kept apple orchard.

THE EARLY APPLE ORCHARDS.

In many of the old apple orchards in the vicinity of Detroit we find the Snow apple, the Red and the White Calville, the Pomme Gris or Gray apple, and the Rosseau.

The late Gov. Wm. Woodbridge owned a farm adjoining Detroit on the west. It is now a part of the city of Detroit. About the year 1825 Gov. Woodbridge bought of Grant Thorburn two thousand apple trees and some pear trees, and planted them on his farm, making two good orchards. He had the leading varieties of that day, viz.: The Rhode Island Greening, Baldwin, Yellow Belleflower, White Belleflower, Gloria Mundi, Spitzenberg, Roxbury Russet, Twenty-Ounce apple, Fall Pippin, Early Harvest, Black Gilliflower, and many others. He also had the Snow apple, White and Red Calville, Detroit Red, or Black apple, and Pomme Gris, or Grey apple. The scions of the six varieties last named he procured from some of the old orchards in Windsor and Sandwich, Canada, opposite Detroit, and engrafted them into some of the trees he bought of Mr. Thorburn.

In other orchards in the vicinity of Detroit, where these apples are grown, I find that, for the most part, scions were taken from Canadian orchards near Detroit, and engrafted into the old trees. The fartherest back that I have been able to trace these apples towards their orgin is 1796.

Some years since, as I was passing through the orchard of Francis Baby, of Windsor, C. W., for the purpose of getting specimens of apples for exhibition, I noticed a very handsome bright red apple, at that time, September, not ripe. Its name Mr. Baby did not know. Mr. James Dougall, son-in-law of Mr. Baby, and a near neighbor, who was well acquainted with the orchard, had never noticed this tree or its fruit, so we concluded to wait till it was ripe and then take another look. A short time afterward I received from Mr. Dougall specimens of this fruit, accompanied by a note, in which he says: "Mr. Baby informs me that he received the original trees, which are yet standing, and from which I take the specimens I send you, from Montreal in 1796, along with other kinds. He thinks it had no particular name, but says it is one of the Calvilles. Captain Cowan, who commanded a small vessel on the lakes, and who had formerly been a gardener to General Washington previous to his being President, brought up the trees in his vessel for Mr. Baby from Fort Erie, and being an excellent grafter, he took scions from each variety received by Mr. Baby, for the purpose of engrafting them into trees in Detroit; I find some of them are very good, while others from the same tree are very inferior; some of the fruit is stained red to the core, and some specimens are white throughout. The specimens with stained flesh are always the best. This remark holds good as against the Red Calville and the Rosseau, which apples belong to the same class."

In this orchard, among the trees brought from Montreal in 1796, were the Snow, Calville, Pomme Gris, and other apples that were leading varieties in the orchards in Canada. I afterward found this handsome but nameless apple in some of the orchards on Grosse Isle, under the name of Bourassa. The only work in which I find the Bourassa apple mentioned is the *Fruit Culturist*, by J. J. Thomas. The apple of which I am speaking does not correspond with his description.

In an English fruit book by William Forsyth, published in 1802, in his list of apples introduced into England from France, I find mentioned Le Calville d' Automne, which, judging from Forsyth's description, I think must be the apple alluded to. Besides this variety he mentions the Pomme Gris, from Canada, and the Red and the White Calville as being highly esteemed in England. The Snow apple or Pomme de Neige, or Fameuse, known by all these names, is also mentioned by Forsyth. All the fruit books speak of it as a native of Canada.

In Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture for 1851, under the head of "Descriptions and Engravings of Select Varieties of Apples," he says: "The Fameuse, though an apple of American origin, and known to most European writers on fruit from the time of Forsyth, does not appear to have been generally known to American pomological authors. Neither Thatcher or Cox, the earliest authorities, notice it. Mr. Kendrick was the first to give a full account of it, in his American Orchardist. That a variety of so much merit should have not been long since more extensively cultivated is somewhat surprising; for as an autumn apple, both on the score of beauty and excellence, it has few superiors."

THE OLD NURSERIES.

Mr. William L. Woodbridge started a small nursery, mostly of pear trees, on his father's farm in 1833, when a schoolboy. With the help of one man and the attention he could give it, he was quite successful in raising trees. He raised many apples and pears from seed, and some of them were very superior in beauty and flavor. He raised some trees from seeds of the Snow apple; the grain was finer and the skin lighter colored than the true Snow apple, but the flesh had the peculiar flavor and snowy whiteness of its parent.

In 1836 Mr. Woodbridge sold between three and four hundred pear trees from his nursery, to be taken to Chicago. Among them were the Seckel, Summer Bon Chretien, French and English Jargonelle, Pound, Bartlett, and White Doyenne. He thinks this was the first lot of pear trees sold from a Detroit nursery, and that his was the only nursery in Detroit at that time, and it was not a very extensive one.

In the autumn of 1830, or thereabouts, Gov. Woodbridge bought in New York twenty thousand small trees and plants, and had them shipped from Buffalo on a schooner for Detroit. On the way up the vessel put into Huron, and was obliged to remain there until spring, being frozen in. When she arrived at Detroit the trees and plants were found to be dead, the whole lot being a total loss.

THE YPSILANTI NURSERY.

One of the first nurseries established in Michigan, was the nursery of E. D. & Z. K. Lay, near Ypsilanti. A short time since I addressed a note to Mr. E. D. Lay, who still resides on his farm at Ypsilanti, asking some questions with regard to his nursery, in answer to which I received the following, viz:

YPSILANTI, February 10th, 1873.

SIR:—At your request I send you an account of the nursery started and carried on in the town of Ypsilanti, on the plains east of the now city of Ypsilanti.

In the spring of 1833 I came to Michigan, then a Territory, to select a place for establishing a nursery, and selected the above location. In the fall of 1833, my brother, Z. K. Lay, and myself came to Ypsilanti, and brought with us about 25,000 cultivated trees; mostly of one season's growth, from the nursery of Asa Rowe, near Rochester, New York. They consisted of 130 varieties of apples, 75 varieties of pears, 40 of peaches, three of apricots, three of nectarines, 20 of cherries, 20 of plums, three of quinces, 15 of strawberries, 40 of grapes, native and foreign, together with currants, gooseberries, raspberries, etc. Also a large assortment of ornamental shrubs, evergreens, roses, peonies, herbaceous perennial flowering plants, etc.

In the autumn of 1834 we erected a small greenhouse, and filled it with plants; I think this was the first greenhouse built in Michigan.

In the autumn of 1836 we erected a large greenhouse and filled it with a choice collection of tropical plants. I do not know that there was any nursery of fruit trees in Michigan at the time we started ours on the plains near Ypsilanti.

The leading varieties of apples cultivated at that time were the Baldwin, Belleflower, Tart Bough, Canada Red, Snow, Rhode Island Greening, Fall Pippin, Summer Pippin, Green Newtown Pippin, Roxbury Russet, Talman's Sweet, Green Sweet, Esopus Spitzenburg, Swaar, and Twenty-Ounce apple.

The leading varieties of pears were the Bartlett, Buffum, White Doyenne, Flemish Beauty, Seckel, and Stevens' Genesee.

Of peaches, the Early Anne, Sweetwater, Royal Kensington, Prince's Red, Rareripe, Orange, Pound, Barnard, Early York, Malta, and Red Cheek Melocoton. Apricots and Nectarines, we found were too tender for cultivation in this climate.

The principal varieties of cherries cultivated at that time were the Amber Heart, American Heart, Black Heart, Black Tartarian, May Duke, Ox Heart, Carnation and White Tartarian.

The plums were Coe's Golden Drop, Duane's Purple, Green Gage, Bleeker's Gage, Huling's Superb, Smith's Orleans, Washington, and Yellow Gage.

The persons making the first and largest purchases of trees from the nursery, except in our immediate vicinity, were John Bertram, J. Henry, J. D. Pierce, Sidney Ketchum, George Ketchum, C. D. Smith, Isaac E. Crary, and others of Marshall and vicinity.

In the course of the first five years of our nursery we sold trees that went to Lenawee, Hillsdale, Branch, St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Kent, Shiawassee, Genesee, Oakland, Livingston, Wayne, and other counties in this State.

There has been a decided improvement in the varieties of fruit since we started the Ypsilanti nursery, particularly in pears. A large number of the varieties we brought to Michigan proved to be worthless; so also with our collection of apples; a large number of the varieties proved to be unworthy of cultivation in this State.

Of the persons who started nurseries in Michigan between 1837 and 1840, I remember the names of Willis, of Battle Creek, Dunham, near Kalamazoo, and White, near Monroe. Most of them closed their nurseries within a few years.

THE DETROIT NURSERIES.

In 1841, George Foster started a small nursery in Detroit, on Michigan avenue, near Cass street, and in connection therewith a seed store on Jefferson avenue, between Woodward avenue and Bates street. The nursery was called the Detroit nursery. This arrangement continued but a year or two.

In the autumn of 1844 William Adair and George Foster entered into copartnership, and the firm held forth at what was known as the Michigan Garden; located on Randolph street, between Lafayette and Croghan streets, on the Brush farm, Detroit. They dealt in fruit and ornamental trees and greenhouse plants. Mr. Foster soon retired from the concern, and Mr. Adair has continued the business alone from that time to the present, not having a partner either in business or household affairs. His garden is now located where it has been for many years, on Jefferson avenue, corner of Adair street, near Bloody Run.

At an early day, about 1836, Mr. Charles Hastings started a nursery on his farm in Troy, Oakland county. After a time Mr. A. C. Hubbard became interested in this nursery, and the firm was then Hastings & Hubbard. Subsequently, Mr. B. M. Davis was admitted a member of the firm. Then, for a short time, the firm was Hastings, Hubbard & Davis. After a few years, the health of Mr. Hastings having failed, he withdrew from the firm.

Messrs. Hubbard & Davis purchased some land on the Porter farm, on what was then known as the Porter road, in Springwells. That road is now known as 24th street, Detroit. They moved their nursery from Troy to this location, where it has remained ever since.

Mr. Hubbard died in the autumn of 1871. The nursery is now owned by B. M. Davis. The extensive greenhouses are now owned by Davis, Taplin & Co. Mr. Taplin was an employe of the late firm, but he is now a partner. Mr. Davis has charge of the nursery, and Mr. Taplin the greenhouses.

OTHER NURSERIES.

Mr. T. W. Dunham had a nursery four and a half miles south of Kalamazoo as early as 1840. He called it the Kalamazoo Nursery.

In 1844 Mr. J. B. Noble had a nursery at Ann Arbor, where he sold fruit trees and ornamental shrubbery.

About 1840, Mr. Willis started a nursery at Battle Creek. In the autumn of 1835 I passed through Battle Creek. About the only business going on at this place then was the building a canal to lead the water from one river to the other, so as to utilize it in the running of machinery.

In 1840, Mr. White, familiarly known as Variety White, had a nursery at Monroe.

THE FIRST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN.

The first Horticultural Society in Michigan, of which I have any knowledge, was partially organized at the Northern Hotel, in Detroit, on the evening of March 5, 1841. At that meeting there were present, Wm. Adair, John Ford, J. C. Holmes, Thomas Hall, M. Howard Webster, John Lumsden, John B. Piquette, Robert Radford, Robert Stead and Henry D. Hastings. J. C. Holmes was called to the chair and Henry D. Hastings appointed Secretary. Having adopted a preamble and constitution, and appointed a committee to draft by-laws, the meeting adjourned to meet at Mechanic's Hall on the evening of March 16th.

On Monday evening, March 16, the Society met according to adjournment. Permanent officers were elected and by-laws adopted.

The officers elected were:

President—John Winder.
Vice Presidents—John C. Holmes, B. G. Stimson.
Corresponding Secretary—M. Howard Webster.
Recording Secretary—John Lumsden.
Treasurer—Thomas Hall.

COMMITTEES.

On Fruits.—Adrian R. Terry, William Adair, Samuel Barstow, George Duffield.

On Indigenous Plants.—Bela Hubbard, John B. Piquette, F. F. Merceron.

On Trees and Shrubs.—George V. N. Lothrop, Lewis Hall, Bela Hubbard, J. E. Schwarz.

On Vegetables.—Thomas Hall, Robert Stead, H. D. Hastings, Thomas W. Lockwood.

On Green House Plants and Florists' Flowers.—John Ford, M. Howard Webster, John C. Holmes, William B. Wesson.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.

William Adair, Samuel Barstow, Geo. G. Bull, George Duffield, John Ford, Thomas Hall, Henry D. Hastings, John C. Holmes, Lewis Hall, Bela Hubbard, Thomas W. Lockwood, Geo. V. N. Lothrop, John Lumsden, F. F. Merceron, J. H. Morris, William R. Noyes, John B. Piquette, Francis Raymond, Robert Stead, John E. Schwarz, B. G. Stimson, Adrian R. Terry, John Winder, M. Howard Webster, Wm. B. Wesson.

In 1841 the Society held several exhibitions of horticultural products, as well as meetings for conversation, lectures and discussions.

For the purpose of showing what were the leading varieties of fruit under cultivation, and who were some of the fruit-growers in and near Detroit at that time, twenty-six years ago, I will give the names of some of the exhibitors and the fruits exhibited in 1847. Among the varieties named you will probably recognize some that were long since discarded, and stricken from the list worthy of general cultivation in Michigan.

At the Society's exhibition of August 24th, 1847, Mr. Marvin Hannah, of Albion, exhibited Red Magnum Bonum, Blue Gage, Green Gage, Yellow Gage, and Damson plums.

Bela Hubbard, of Springwells, French Jargonelle and seedling pears, Imperial Gage and Blue Gage plums.

A. C. Hubbard, of Troy, Orange Pippin and seedling apples of 1846, and Bleeker's Scarlet plums.

J. C. Holmes, Detroit, a collection of apples and pears.

James Dougall, Amherstberg, C. W., Prince's Yellow Gage, Purple Seedling, Pond's Seedling, Imperial Gage, Blue Seedling, Mediterranean and Washington plums. American Summer Pearmain, Summer Queen, Hawthornden, Sweet Bough, Keswick Codlin, Alexander, and Lyman's large summer apples, and English Jargonelle pears.

Zeri Phelps, Plymouth, Cheseborough Russet, Golden Pippin and Sweet Bough apples. Prince's Imperial Gage plum.

Roswell Root, Plymouth, Early Harvest, Spice Sweet, and Golden Pippin apples.

H. Weeks, Plymouth, one dish and three large clusters of Washington plums.

Jonathan Shearer, Plymouth, Prince's Imperial Gage plum, and Red Rare-ripe peaches.

John G. Welch, Plymouth, Sweet Bough, Golden Pippin, and Sweet Spice apples.

John G. Bennet, John Tibbets, M. Shutts, E. J. Penniman, D. Averill, H. Frailick, John Westfall, Wm. Blackmore, H. B. Holbrook, Andrew Bradner, David Warner, John Kellogg, Grafter Warner, E. Starkweather, John Barker, John Miller, Moses Lyon, and Henry Lyon, each exhibited early apples, mostly Sweet Bough, Spice Sweet, and Golden Pippin.

James V. Campbell, Detroit, a large cluster of Blue plums, Mediterranean plums, and Black Cluster grapes. All these fruits exhibited in August were, of course, early fruits. You notice that plums were very plenty then, the Curculio not being so destructive in this State as it has been since.

I will now give a memorandum of the names of some of the exhibitors and fruits presented at the exhibition on the 28th and 29th of September, 1847.

Dr. Cobb, of Detroit, exhibited Albert Gallatin, Teton de Venus, Orange Cling, Red Cheek Melocoton, and Seedling peaches; also some Isabella grapes.

James Dougall, of Amherstburg, C. W., now of Windsor, C. W., where he has a nursery, exhibited Isabella, Catawba, Black Cluster, Fox, White Muscatine, Golden Chasselas, Esperione, Black Frontignan, Green Swiss, and Sweet Water grapes. Purple Gage, Coe's Golden Drop, and Damson plums. Red Rareripe, President, and Monstrous Pompone peaches. Passe Colmar, White Doyenne, and Easter Beurre pears. Ribston Pippin, Alexander, Hawthornden, Pennock's Red Winter, Small Pomme Gris, Domine, Keswick Codlin, Flushing Spitzenburg, Large Pomme Gris, Labute, White Calville, Royal Russet, Monstrous Pippin, Bourassa, American Summer Pearmain, Pomme de Neige, Baldwin, King of the Pippins, Esopus Spitzenburg, Male Carle, or Charles apple, Bullock's Pippin, Scarlet Pearmain, and Rosseau apples.

Charles Hastings, of Troy, Oakland county, exhibited Virgalieu, Bleeker's Meadow, Marie Louise, Summer Bon Chretien, Autumn Bergamot, and Stevens' Genesee Pears. Pound Royal, Summer Queen, Summer Pippin, Tallman's Sweet, Wine, Yellow Bellefleur, Holland Pippin, Baldwin, Rhode Island Greening, Yellow Newtown Pippin, Detroit Red, Monstrous Pippin, Swaar, Westfield Seek-No-Further, Twenty-Ounce Pippin, Doctor, Court Pendu, Plat, Roxbury Russett, Pomme d' Neige, Pound Sweeting, Romanite, Golden Sweet, French Pippin, Hubbardston Nonsuch, and Esopus Spitzenberg Apples. Orange, Portugal, and common quince, Alexander grapes, and Pineapple peaches.

J. R. Williams, Constantine, exhibited Buffum pears, Maiden's Blush, Holland Pippin, Pomme d' Neige, Rhode Island Greening, Fall Pippin, and several varieties of apples not named.

Hubbard & Davis, Troy, exhibited Pineapple Cling, Incomparable, Orange Cling, Albert Gallatin, Red Cheek Melocoton, Columbia, and Mellish's Favorite peaches. Also a large collection of apples, and a few pears and grapes.

James Allen, Pontiac, exhibited Twenty-Ounce Pippin, Fall Pippin, Detroit Red, Spitzenberg, Rhode Island Greening, Cheseborough Russet, Golden Pippin, and several other varieties of apples. French Jargonelle, Stevens' Genesee, and English Jargonelle pears.

Jabez Warner, Plymouth, from the orchard of a neighbor, Twenty-Ounce Pippin, and several other varieties of apples.

Rev. Mr. Ruggles, of Pontiac, apples and quinces.

James M. Edmonds, Ypsilanti, Catawba and Isabella grapes.

Bela Hubbard, Detroit, apples, pears, plums, quinces, and grapes.

Linus Cone, Troy, collection of apples.

There were many other exhibitors, but the names of exhibitors and the kinds and varieties exhibited already mentioned will suffice to show us what fruits were grown in the several localities, and by whom they were raised.

Many excellent varieties of fruit have been added to our list since that day.

In addition to the names of exhibitors already given, there were at subsequent exhibitions, in other years, several persons who exhibited large collections of apples, pears, peaches, plums, and grapes. Among them I may mention E. D. Lay, of Ypsilanti; O. M. Bronson, Waterford; B. G. Stimson, Detroit; William B. Wesson, Detroit; A. Whitehead, of Pontiac, and J. L. Travers, Mount Clemens.

Judge Barker, of Plymouth, made collections from the orchards in that town,

and entered them for exhibition in the names of the proprietors of the orchards. He took great interest in the welfare of the Society, and was generally present at the exhibitions, bringing large collections of fruits from Plymouth gardens and orchards.

At the annual meeting of the Society in March, 1848, the following officers were elected:

President—J. C. Holmes.
Vice Presidents—M. Howard Webster, W. R. Noyes.
Corresponding Secretary—Thomas W. Lockwood.
Recording Secretary—Francis Raymond.
Treasurer—W. B. Wesson.

At the annual meeting held in March, 1849, the officers elected were:

President—Rev. George Duffield.
Vice Presidents—Bela Hubbard, B. M. Davis.
Recording Secretary—W. Isham.
Treasurer—Wm. R. Noyes.
Corresponding Secretary—E. R. Kearsley.

At the annual meeting held in March 1850, the following officers were elected:

President—Rev. Geo. Duffield.
Vice Presidents—E. R. Kearsley, B. M. Davis.
Recording Secretary—B. G. Stimson.
Corresponding Secretary—M. Howard Webster.
Treasurer—F. Raymond.

The officers elected for 1851 were:

President—B. G. Stimson.
Vice Presidents—John Ford, T. H. Hinchman.
Recording Secretary—Bela Hubbard.
Corresponding Secretary—Wm. Adair.
Treasurer—F. Raymond.
Librarian—Bela Hubbard.

The officers elected for 1852 were:

President—A. C. Hubbard.
Vice Presidents—Thos. W. Lockwood, F. Raymond.
Recording Secretary—Chas. Betts.
Corresponding Secretary and Librarian—Bela Hubbard.
Treasurer—Stephen Smith.

The interest in the Society was well kept up until 1852. In that year there was a great falling off. There were four exhibitions held in 1852, but they were very small compared with other years.

At the annual meeting held in March, 1853, there were but few persons present, and the Society then died out.

As the Society now here in session is a Pomological Society, I have spoken only of the fruits exhibited by the Detroit Horticultural Society, thinking you would be more interested in the history of the fruit department than in the department of flowers and vegetables, and it would make my paper too lengthy to speak of all the departments in detail; but our tables were always graced with an abundance of beautiful flowers and excellent vegetables. Indigenous flowers from our own fields and forests always held a conspicuous place in the show.

I think I do not like the name of Pomological Society as well as I do that of

Horticultural Society, for the former designates only one department of horticulture, while the latter embraces the whole of horticulture.

I am fond of delicious fruits; I am equally fond of beautiful flowers. I love to see a well kept orchard; so also a well kept garden. I love to see the choicest products of each on exhibition by the same Society, and an endeavor on the part of the Society to foster the cultivation and exhibition of Flora's riches as well as the riches of Pomona. I am glad to know that although this Society makes the advancement of the pomological interests of the State its leading object, it does not ignore flowers, but has a place for them in its premium list.

THE MICHIGAN NURSERYMEN AND FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

On the 9th of September, 1853, a convention of nurserymen from the southern part of Michigan was held at Jonesville, Hillsdale county. The object of the meeting was to establish, as nearly as possible, uniform prices for fruit trees; also for the purpose of discussing such subjects connected with horticulture as might be deemed interesting and beneficial, not only to nurserymen, but all the citizens of our State.

A schedule of prices was reported to the convention, and after some discussion it was adopted. This meeting adjourned to meet at such time and place as the Chairman and Secretary might deem fit to appoint.

In pursuance of this adjournment, a convention of nurserymen and fruit-growers was called, and met at Adrian, Michigan, on the 24th of February, 1854. At this meeting the following gentlemen were present: B. W. Steere, Isaac Chase, A. G. Eastman, D. K. Underwood, and B. F. Strong, of Adrian; Chas. E. Perigo, Toledo; John Merritt, Tecumseh; C. H. Hageman, Blissfield; C. C. Cooley, Hudson; Haynes Johnson, Jr., Hillsdale; Jesse Maxson, Pittsford; John T. Blois, Jonesville; J. C. Holmes, Detroit; A. K. Bentley, Monroe.

The meeting having been called to order, J. C. Holmes, of Detroit, was called to the chair, and J. T. Blois, of Jonesville, elected Secretary.

After the transaction of some business, the following list of prices was reported, discussed, and adopted:

Resolved, That our price for apple trees of medium size, or from five to seven feet high, shall be not less than 18¾ cents each, nor less than $16 per hundred; extra sized trees at proportionate prices. Dwarf apple trees, from 25 cents to 37½ cents each. Plum trees shall not be sold less than 50 cents each. Our price for peach trees shall not be less than 20 cents each, or $15 per hundred. Apricot and nectarine trees, on peach stocks, shall be from 37½ to 50 cents each. Our price for hardy grapes, two to three years old, shall not be less than 25 cents each.

The following constitution was then adopted:

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be called the Michigan Nurserymen and Fruit Growers' Association.

ARTICLE 2. Any practical nurseryman, fruit-grower, or friend of horticulture may, by a vote of the Society, become a member.

ARTICLE 3. The objects of the Association shall be to extend the acquaintance of the members, and to advance generally the horticultural interests of this and neighboring States.

ARTICLE 4. The officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, and a Secretary who shall also act as Treasurer. They shall be elected by ballot, and hold their offices for one year, or until their successors shall be elected. They shall perform the duties usually devolving upon such officers, and form an Executive Board.

ARTICLE 5. The Society shall hold annual meetings on the first Tuesday in December, at which time the annual election of officers shall be held.

ARTICLE 6. By-laws not inconsistent with this constitution may be adopted, and from time to time be altered and amended at any annual meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

The Society adjourned to meet in Adrian the next June, but for some cause it did not meet again until the 9th of January, 1855, when it held its annual meeting in Adrian.

No permanent officers having been elected, J. C. Holmes, of Detroit, was called to the chair, and J. T. Blois elected Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Perigo, of Toledo, Ohio,

Resolved, That the afternoon session be devoted to the regular business of the Association, and, at the request of several citizens of Adrian, that the evening be devoted to a general conversation and discussion of subjects connected with horticulture.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Association: Sterling Perkins, White Pigeon; Rev. E. H. Pilcher, B. J. Harvey. Ira J. Thurston, J. Mandeville, Chas. M. McKenzie, J. N. Chandler, Adrian; S. O. Knapp, Jackson; Harvey Smith, Pine Lake; Warren Gilbert, Rome; Henry P. Hanford, Bristol, Indiana; Wm. H. Loomis, South Bend, Ind.; Dr. E. M. Hale, Jonesville, Mich.; Lewis Miller, Lockport, Mich.; Mr. Wilcox, Flint; Wm. Bort, Niles, and M. L. Dunlap, Leyden, Cook county, Ill.

The subject of cleaning seeds of fruit trees and raising seedlings was introduced. Mr. Bentley, of Monroe, Mr. Thurston, of Adrian, Mr. Holmes, of Detroit, Mr. Steers, of Adrian, Mr. Blois, of Jonesville, and Mr. Bort, of Niles, participated in the discussion.

The subject of grape culture was discussed by Messrs. Pilcher, Holmes, Steers, and Perigo.

In the evening the Society met at the office of T. M. Cooley, now Judge Cooley.

Specimens of several varieties of apples were presented for consideration by Messrs. Scott, Strong, Cooley, Eastman, and others.

The subject of apples being introduced, the discussion was participated in by Messrs. Underwood, Scott, Steers, Cooley, Strong, Eastman, and McKenzie, of Adrian; Perigo, of Toledo; Blois, of Jonesville; Perkins, of White Pigeon; Bort, of Niles, and Holmes, of Detroit.

The subject of strawberries was then discussed by Dr. Underwood, Messrs. Perigo, Bort, Scott, Strong, Steers, and Cooley.

The constitution of the Society was then amended by striking out, in article 5, the words, "The first Tuesday of December," and inserting the words, "The second Tuesday of January," so as to bring the annual meeting of the Society on the second Tuesday in January instead of the first Tuesday of December.

The following officers were then elected for the ensuing year:

President—J. C. Holmes, Detroit.

Vice President—J. E. Perigo, Toledo, Ohio.

Secretary and Treasurer—J. T. Blois, Jonesville.

The third annual meeting was held at Jackson, on the 8th of January, 1856.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the association, viz.: J. E. Beebe, W. R. Gibson, J. T. Wilson, D. Cook, W. T. Howell, R. Dunning, Dr. E. Foote, J. M. Harwood, M. McNaughton, and Wm. Hayden, of Jackson; E. Moody, Wright's Corners, N. Y.; Ira C. and A. A. Olds, of Hartford, Van Buren county, Michigan.

The schedule of prices of fruit trees adopted at a former meeting was discussed, and some amendments offered, but not adopted. Messrs. Dunning, Blois, Wilson, Moody, Cook, Holmes, Knapp, and Ira C. Olds took part in the discussion. Many specimens of apples were placed on exhibition by the members present. On motion, the question of the best manner of separating seeds

from the fruit and cleaning them was brought up for discussion; also the treatment and culture of stock seedlings. Messrs. Blois, Steers, Moody, Wilson, Beebe, Dunning, Foote, and Holmes took part in the discussion.

The association then discussed the question of pruning in the nursery.

At the evening session on the 9th of January, the examination of fruits, and the discussion of their respective merits, occupied the evening. Messrs. Cook, Moody, Holmes, Gibson, and Blois were the principal speakers.

On the 10th of January, at the morning session, the pear and the grape questions were discussed by Messrs. Moody, Knapp, Beebe, and Holmes.

The association then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year with the following result.

President—A. C. Hubbard, Detroit.

Vice President—J. T. Blois, Jonesville.

Secretary—W. R. Gibson, Jackson.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at Jackson on the 2d of September.

On the 2d of September, 1856, the association met at Jackson. The President, Mr. Hubbard being absent, the chair was occupied by the Vice President, J. T. Blois, of Jonesville.

The following gentlemen were elected members: S. B. Noble, James De Puy, T. E. Gidley, H. T. Buck, P. B. Loomis, and S. Gidley.

A large collection of fruit was exhibited at this meeting.

The principal questions discussed during the session were, the quality and the cultivation of several varieties of apples, pears, peaches, strawberries, and grapes.

These discussions were participated in by Messrs. Foote, T. E. Gridley, Wilson, Knapp, Bort, Noble, Blois, and Steers.

Another question discussed was, the frauds that had been practiced upon western nurserymen and amateurs by eastern vendors of trees.

The Society then adjourned, and this was the last meeting this Society ever held.

The Nurserymen and Fruit Growers' Association having been winter-killed, or from some other cause having died out, there was a call from Clinton county, Kalamazoo county, and other places for a meeting to be held at Jackson, for the purpose of organizing a State Horticultural Society.

In September, 1857, pursuant to this call, a meeting was held at Jackson, to form a State Horticultural Society. The meeting was called to order by C. K. Gibson, of Jackson. T. T. Lyon, of Plymouth, was elected chairman, and V. B. Merwin, of Moscow, Secretary.

A constitution and by-laws were adopted. The association was organized as the Michigan State Horticultural Society.

The following officers were elected, viz.:

President—H. G. Wells, of Kalamazoo.

Secretary—R. F. Johnstone, of Detroit.

Treasurer—P. B. Loomis, of Jackson.

Directors—Hiram Walker, Detroit; D. K. Underwood, Adrian, John T. Blois, Jonesville; Linus Cone, Troy; G. W. Nelson, Grand Rapids; Wm. Bort, Niles.

After the reading of letters from persons who were unable to be present, the Society adjourned.

The first annual meeting of this Society was held, under very favorable auspices, at Kalamazoo, on the 7th of January, 1858.

There was a large attendance and a good exhibition of fruit. An extract

from a Kalamazoo paper says: "The display of fruit was large and most beautiful, one of the finest ever made in this State. Indeed, we are assured that, for excellence, beauty, and variety, this collection surpassed the exhibit of the New York State Horticultural Society, made at Rochester last winter, said to have been one of the best ever made in that State. Over one hundred different varieties of winter apples, raised in this State, were here exhibited, arranged tastefully on plates spread upon a double row of tables, showing all varieties of size, flavor and color, from the monstrous Pippin down to the rusty Pomme Gris, or the sprightly, blushing Lady apple."

At 3 P. M. the meeting was called to order by the President. The Secretary being absent, Mr. T. T. Lyon, of Plymouth, was elected Secretary *pro tem.*

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—H. G. Wells, of Kalamazoo.

Vice Presidents—E. T. Graves, of Battle Creek; B. W. Steers, of Adrian.

Secretary—T. T. Lyon, of Plymouth.

Treasurer—Stephen S. Cobb, of Kalamazoo.

The Society continued in session three days, during which time considerable business was transacted. The President delivered an address upon the subject of horticulture; several committees were appointed to report upon various subjects connected with horticulture; reports that were made by these committees were discussed; a list of apples was recommended for general cultivation; a list was made of apples that promise well, and a list that was, in the opinion of the Society, unworthy of cultivation.

Contributors of fruit were, A. C. Hubbard, Detroit; Jeremiah Standard, Ionia; Samuel Johnson, Kalamazoo; J. T. Wilson, Jackson; D. McKee, W. Taylor, E. Merril, Geo. D. Rice, S. S. Cobb, and A. Buell, of Kalamazoo; Joshua Clemens, Leoni; B. Hathaway, Little Prairie Ronde, and T. T. Lyon, Plymouth.

This Society held an exhibition in Detroit on the 30th of June and 1st of July, 1851. The specimens of horticultural products exhibited were excellent, but not so abundant as the officers of the Society had reason to expect, consequently there were but few visitors. The exhibition seems to have been almost an entire failure with regard to the number of articles exhibited, and the number of visitors in attendance.

I think this was the last effort the Society made to hold an exhibition of horticultural products, or a meeting of any kind. It went the way of all the rest,—died out.

In those early days of which I have spoken, we had no trouble in ripening peaches and plums in Detroit; but the subsequent cold winters, and the curculio, have wrought somewhat of a change in that regard. Peach trees grow stronger, and I think they are more healthy and longer lived, grown in a heavy, strong soil like that of Detroit, than in light soils. I have never seen a case of the Yellows there; sometimes, in a cold, wet, backward spring, the leaves curl and fall off, but the trees soon recover from this.

The borer is not so fond of working in peach trees grown on a heavy soil, as they are in trees grown on a light soil.

I have now spoken of some of the fruit trees of olden times, and of associations that have had their day and retired from the field. The new Pomological Association you now have before you: it is not only new, but it is strong, active, and energetic. You and I are part and parcel of it. I hope it will be well sustained, so that it may accomplish the good it seeks to do.

J. C. HOLMES.